

An Essay
on
Pneumonia

Respectfully Submitted to the
Faculty
of the
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of
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Pneumonia

Is inflammation of the parenchyma of the lungs in which all textures are more or less involved.

This disease is usually divided into three principal stages

Viz. 1. Congestion, 2. inflammation, and, 3. that of Suppuration.

In the first or congestive stage serum or blood of a dark red color occupies the substance of the lung which if pressed upon causes crepitation: being produced by the air passing through this fluid which is heavier and less elastic than in a healthy lung. In this stage by auscultation we hear a peculiar sound as of the rumpling of fine

parchment at the commencement of the disease it may be confined to a small portion of the chest.

Should crepitation become extended there is danger of the disease passing into the second stage in which case crepitation ceases first at the point first attacked if disease terminates by resolution the murmur reappears at the part where it first ceased.

In the second or stage of inflammation the lung readily sinks in water if cut into looks red has a variegated appearance the spongy character is gone it has acquired the consistence and weight of liver which it much resembles and

on this account is said to be
hepatized a reddish fluid oozes out
of it if pressed upon it is now impervious
to air and has no crepitation does
not collapse when exposed to the
air. In this stage a puffing sound
is usually heard (by the use of stethosco-
pe or on applying the ear to the chest)
caused by the air rushing through
the larger bronchi. The voice of the Patient
seems to descend into the cavity

In the third or stage of Suppuration
the lung preserves the same degree of
hardness has a granular appearance pus
appears in small detached yellow points
which with the substance of the lung
forms an ash-gray color the texture is
more friable.

more friable. If the air cells are broken up the cavity soon fills with pus we may sometimes find in the centre of the lung a number of lobules in a state of hepatization whilst the surrounding ones are perfectly sound. In the inflamed portion of the lung the lining membrane of the bronchi is usually involved which gives it a very red appearance. A gurgling noise is sometimes heard occasioned by the cavities which have been formed in the lung being filled with pus of a grayish color decomposition of the lung may be going on and pus may exist where auscultation does not reveal the fact in which

case the part diseased was undoubtedly small or in the centre of the lung respiration being carried on by the healthy portion

One or both lungs may be affected by this disease if but one more frequently the right and the disease usually commences in the lower lobes

The first or congestive stage usually lasts from twelve hours to two or three days before inflammation is completed; this or the second stage from one to three days after which spots of purulent infiltration appear and the suppurative stage continues from three to five or six days

Pneumonia may terminate in
effusion suppuration or gangrene
occasionally by hemorrhage
Effusion is the most salutary mode
of termination for by this process
the vessels become relieved The
secreting process goes on thereby
producing an increased discharge
of mucus consequently relief
to the patient occasionally however
in consequence of this effusion we
find adhesions between the lungs and
pleura and in some cases a collection
of water in different parts of the chest
occasionally a flow of blood apparen-
tly from the mouths of the exhalants
without any rupture of the vessels
causing the sputa to be tinged with blood

Should the inflammation pass on
to suppuration the change would
be characterized by shiverings and
a remission of pain

If gangrene ensues the pulse sinks
great prostration takes place with
much oppression attended by a
copious fetid expectoration the
patient has not the power of throwing
off the matter the accumulation of
which in the lungs produces suffocation
This disease is usually ushered in ~~with~~
chilliness followed by heat during
which there is a pressure deep in the
chest increasing to an intense seated
pain accompanied with extreme anxiety
the pain is always felt in the region
where the inflammation is seated

Should both lungs be affected The pain would extend over both sides of the chest if but one it is felt only on one side and extends with the inflammation.

The breathing is obstructed frequent superficial and is carried on with the unaffected portion of the lungs only Should both lungs be inflamed with the abdominal muscles and the diaphragm but not by raising the ~~throat~~

^{ful} There is a short continuous and distressing cough dry at the commencement afterwards attended with expectoration of a viscid semi-transparent matter becoming in a short time stained more or less with blood giving

it a reddish or rusty color:

the tenacity of this expectoration is so great that it will adhere to the vessel containing it even when this is turned bottom upward

The cough is aggravated by deep inspirations or even in an attempt to speak. The face is bloated and livid in many instances in consequence of the imperfect change of the blood in the lungs. The pulse does not indicate the inflammatory action that it does in pleurisy but is usually accelerated. The skin is hot and dry. Patients commonly lie on their backs. Males are more liable to this disease than females. Predisposing causes are a tuberculous diathesis suppressed

discharges of blood.

Exciting causes atmospheric influences application of cold to the body. Violent exertions in speaking singing etc may be occasioned by mechanical or chemical irritants.

In this disease we may usually infer a safe recovery if the disease be primary and occupy only a portion of a single lung occurring in a person of a good constitution in debilitated persons and in those advanced in life the recovery is more doubtful. The fatality is still greater when the whole of one lung is affected still more if both be diseased.

may be prepared for any and every emergency lest the disease by a change not anticipated may ere he is aware of it pass into a stage from which it will be impossible to produce recovery. We should moreover exercise due caution as to the regimen of the patient. During the inflammatory stage very little nourishment is required and even during convalescence much caution is requisite the patient should not be allowed to overtask his returning appetite a slight error in this respect may cause uncalled for trouble and care should nothing more serious arise from it.

The room should be well ventilated yet moderately warm

Aconite should be given in the stage of simple congestion leading to inflammation accompanied with violent inflammatory fever quick and full pulse face red pains in the chest violent.

Bryonia is useful when there is cough attended with expectoration of viscid mucus of a brick dust color accompanied by oppression at the chest foul tongue constipation and when there is acute shooting or rheumatic pains in the pleura and pectoral muscles it is a valuable agent when the inflammation was occasioned by exposure to dry and cold weather is often the best medicine to follow Aconite when the more severe

febrile symptoms have been lowered
by that remedy —

Belladonna when there is great
congestion of blood to the brain bloated
and red face lips and tongue cracked
and dry when there is delirium and
the disease threatens to assume a
typhoid character Bell should always
be used if aconite fails to moderate
the fever —

Veratrus Emeticus is valuable in
promoting resolution after hepatiza-
tion has taken place should be given
when the oppression at the chest
laborious respiration and anxiety
continue or increase the pulse at the
same time becoming small soft
and irregular

In violent pneumonia when the sticking pains in the chest are excited or aggravated by coughing or breathing when they are very violent and extend over a large surface when a large portion of the lungs is inflamed cough dry sputa rust colored Bronchi more or less inflamed Phosphorus is a valuable remedy In strumous habits where hepatization has advanced to some extent and where Phos. and other remedies have effected only a degree of improvement we may with benefit resort to sulphur—
Cannabis Sativa should the inflammation affect the left lung principally or the lower part of both accompanied with palpitation of the heart oppression

in the region of the sternum
constant heat of the face although
the body remains cold ~

Nux Vomica is called for when obstinate
sanguineous expectoration is with much
difficulty and cough raised thereby
thereby affording momentary relief
to the patient who complains of
profuse and a feeling of anxiety in the
chest is uneasy and restless. Should
bilious ^{or gastric} symptoms supervene would be
an invaluable remedy

Mercurius is a useful remedy should
there be a complication of Bronchitis
with the pneumonia and especially
in those who are subject to mucous
discharges or should there be profuse
expectoration of viscid sanguinolent mucus ~

Squilla should the pneumonia be accompanied by gastric symptoms or should there be a profuse expectoration of mucus from the commencement.

Should the disease have been brought about by a mechanical injury *Arnica* & the remedies above mentioned may be said to be the principal ones employed in the treatment of Pneumonia. Numberless others have been used and in complicated cases no may be necessitated to call in others to our aid.